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THE WRITINGS OF DANIEL DEFOE

MOORE NO. 342.

TITLE THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE GOVERNMENT AGAINST THE REBELS.

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The Proceedings of the Government, against the Rebels, compared with perſecutions of the late Reigns

SINCE the Faction goes on unjuſtly to charge the Government with Cruelty, becauſe of theſe Legal Proceedings againſt thoſe lately taken in Rebellion, I think they cannot have a better Anſwer, than an Account juſt now publiſhed of the Proceedings againſt the Rebels by the Lord chief Juſtice *Jefferies*, and other Judges in the Weſt of *England*, in 1685 for taking Arms under the Duke of *Monmouth*, which contains likewiſe an Account of what was done againſt thoſe who took up Arms in *Scotland* under the Earl of *Argyle*, and againſt the Proteſtants in *Ireland*, by the late K. *James* and his Deputy *Tyrconnel*.

In that book they will find the Duke of *Monmouth*'s and the Earl of *Argyle*'s Declarations, with that of the Pretender, by which the Reader will plainly ſee, that theſe two Unfortunate Lords took Arms to oppoſe Popery and Tyranny, whereas thoſe who Rebelled for the Pretender, took Arms to introduce both.

BUT what muſt for ever ſtop the Mouths of thoſe who murmure againſt the Preſent Government for their Legal Proceedings with the preſent Rebels, is the Liſt contained in the abovementioned Account, of which I ſhall give you the following Abſtract.

Condemned to be Executed 334. Tranſported 854. Baniſhed for Scandalous Words 34. Bound in 103 L. each for their appearance at next Aſſizes, and for their good Behaviour 140. Left in Cuſtody for want of Evidence 97. in all 1559.

All this was done in the Weſt of *England*, and in the compaſs of one Year of King *James* Reign. Beſides which its very well known by Thoulands of Living Witneſſes in the Weſt, that thoſe Priſoners were Treated with the utmoſt Barbarity, 60 of the wounded were immediately hang'd and quartered by Kirk at *Taunton*, without allowing their Wives or Children to ſpeak to them, or pray to hear what they ſaid at Execution, during which he ordered his Pipes, Drums and Trumpets to play.

THAT in the Caſe of Lady *Iſle*, Judge *Jeffery* hectored the Jury to bring her in Guilty, after they had Three Times Acquitted her.

That he Trepanded many of the Rebels to plead Guilty in hopes of a Pardon, and preſently hanged them up by Scors, without allowing them to prepare for Death,

That he Condemned above 500 upon little or no Evidence at *Taunton* and *Wells* where he ordered above 239 to be Executed and their Quarters to be ſet up in the Principal places and Roads of the Country to the great Terrour of Travellers.

That he preſented little Girles for High Treaſon, becauſe they preſented a few Collours to the Rebels, and he forced their Parents to purchaſe their pardons with great Sums.

Then as to the Rebellions in *Scotland*, it will appear by the ſaid Account, that they were occaſioned by more than Heatheriſh Barbarities, committed upon the People meerly on Account of Non-conformity; that beſides ſome Hunders ſlain in the Field, there were publickly Executed with the utmoſt Barbarity, above 100. Sold for Slaves to *America* above 1700. and 200 of them were Deſignedly drowned under the Notion of being Tranſported. Murder'd by Soldiers in the Fields and Roads by Order without Tryal above 78. In all above 1878.

May others were Starved in the open Fields and Jayls and vaſt Sums of Money Levyed without any Colour of Law by Military Execution, beſides what they ſuffered by free Quarter to the Kings Troops, and by being twice Ravaged by Armies of Savage Highlanders on purpoſe to force them to Rebel.

Many were Killed at Meetings in the Fields for Worſhip, and great Numbers perſecuted on that Account, as were others for Entertaining them, tho their neareſt Relations,

Several

Several of thoſe who took Arms were Tortured to make them diſcover others and ſuch as gave them Relief, and ſome were Proſecuted for their Lives, becauſe they Converſed with or entertained ſome of thoſe who had taken Arms.

Many were Examined upon Capicious Queſtions, concerning the Kings Authority, and the Declarations of thoſe who had taken Arms, by the Privy Council and Judges who hanged ſome for not anſwering thoſe Queſtions, and others becauſe they Anſwered but not to their Satisfaction.

Soldiers were impower'd to Examine and Kill without Tryal, ſuch as they met in the Fields or Roads, and would not diſown ſuch Declarations, or produce Certificates that they had already done it, and Inn keepers and Hoſtlers were impowered to examine Travellers and thier Gueſts in the ſame manner, and if did they not anſwer to Satisfaction they were to carry them before the next Magiſtrate, who had a power to hang them without Tryal.

In Ireland King James II. and his Deputy Tyrconnel procur'd an Act of Attainer againſt Multitudes, and when it was preſented to him for his Royal Aſſent the Speaker told him that many were attainted in that Act upon ſuch Evidence as Satisfyed the Houſe and the reſt upon common Fame.

By this Act were attainted,

Archbiſhops,	2
Dukes	1
Earls	17
Counteſſes	7
Viſcounts	28
Viſcounteſſes	1
Biſhops	7
Barons	18
Baronets	33
Knights	51
Clergymen	83
Gentlemen and Eſquairs	2182
Inall,	2431

And all of them *unheard*, declared and adjudged Traytors, Convicted and attainted of High Treaſon, and Sentanced to ſuffer the pains of Death and Forfeyte, and to prevent their Eſcape the Act was concealled, and no Proteſtant was allowed a coppy of it till four Months after the Act was paſsed

Let the World compare the Legal Proceedings of the preſent Government, with thoſe inhumane Barbarieys to King Charles and James II. and then they will be able to Judge whither the Traiterous Faction has any Reaſon to Charge King George's Adminiſtration with Cruelty.

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